

SHAYKH MUHAMMAD AL-YAQOUBI

He is one of the leading scholars of Islam in the world, a true man of Allah with encyclopedic knowledge. He is one of the most influential scholars in the West today; his words have transformed the lives of thousands of people. He studied seven languages; and is a charismatic public speaker in both Arabic and English.

He is a descendant of the Prophet PBUH, from a family of scholars that have taught the sacred knowledge for centuries. Three of his ancestors were Imams in the Grand *Omayyad Masjid* in Damascus, including his father, the great erudite scholar and master of both *shari'a* and *tasawwuf*, the late Shaykh Ibrahim al-Yaqoubi.

He was born in Damascus in 1382H, accompanying his father until he died in 1406H. He was his servant, disciple and student. He was trained in the Sufi path by his father and was qualified as a *murshid*. He studied under him the major works of the sacred knowledge, memorized many texts and didactic poems. His father gave him several *ijazas*. Amongst the scholars who also gave him *ijaza* are: the *Hanafite* Mufti of Syria, Shaykh Muhammad Abul-Yusr 'Abideen; the *Malikite* Mufti of Syria, Sayyid Makki Al-Kittan; Shaykh 'Ali Boudaylimi of Tiemsan; Shaykh Saalih Al-Khateeb.

He made his debut as Friday speaker at the age of 14, was appointed as Friday Imam and speaker at the age of 17 and as a teacher of the sacred knowledge at the age of 20. Since then, he has been teaching the sciences of the *shari'a* such as *'aqeeda*, *tafsir*, *hadith*, *fiqh*, *usool*, grammar, etc. to students of all levels. He taught *Tafsir Al-Nasafi*, *Sahih al-Bukhari* five times, *Sahih Muslim*, *al-Muwatta* six times, *al-Shama'il* of *al-Tirmidhi* 16 times, *Sharh Al-Fiqh Al-Akbar*, *al-Tahawiyya* over 20 times, *Sharh al-'Aqaa'id al-Nasafiyyah*, *Ihya 'Uloom al-Din*, *al-Hikam* of *Ibn 'Atta'illah*, *al-Shifa* of *Qadi 'Iyaad*, *al-Qudouri*, *al-Hidayah*, *Maqaamt al-Hariri*, *Mughni al-Labeeb* and many other books.

As an authority of *hadith*, his *isnads* i.e. chains of transmission, are of the highest amongst scholars of our time. Students and scholars visit him in Syria or when he travels to hear the *masalsalaat* and take *ijaza* in narration of *hadith*.

Between 1992 and 2001, he worked in Kuwait, Sweden and USA; and traveled across the world teaching the sacred knowledge and calling people to Allah. He toured many countries in North America and Europe, the Far East and Arab World. Thousands of people took *shahada* at his hands and many repented after listening to him. He now resides in Damascus and teaches in the *Masjid* of *Shaykh Muhyiddeen Ibn 'Arabi*, and in his home; while several of his students are spreading the sacred knowledge and reviving the way of the *Ulema* around the world. He is married with three children.